

VZCZCXRO0523  
RR RUEHAST  
DE RUEHVB #1241 2861040  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 131040Z OCT 06  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6783  
INFO RUEHXL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA  
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC  
RHEFAFM/CDRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC  
RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC

UNCLAS ZAGREB 001241

SIPDIS

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DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DS/DSS, DS/IP, M/MED/JCTRIPLETT  
FAS/CMP/DLP WETZEL AND MAGGINNIS  
FAS/ITP/EAMED POMEROY AND FLEMING  
CA/OCS/ACS KIM CHRISTMAN  
USAID FOR E&E/ECA/B/ANNE CONVERY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [SENV](#) [ECON](#) [EAGR](#) [PREL](#) [CASC](#) [KFLU](#) [HR](#)

SUBJECT: CROATIA MAINTAINS VIGILANCE ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

REF: ZAGREB 740 AND PREVIOUS

¶1. Scientists at the Croatian Veterinary Institute's Poultry Center plan to begin active monitoring of wild, migratory birds this month, beginning October 21 and continuing through December. Dr. Vladimir Savic, center director, told Econoff the center is collaborating with the State Veterinary Office and local ornithologists.

¶2. Wild, migratory birds likely to carry the virus will be captured at lakes, fishponds and other habitats where they normally rest. Ornithologists are purchasing special equipment (rocket nets and traps) for capturing wild birds. The birds will be tested and released, unharmed, Dr. Savic said.

¶3. There have been no cases of Avian Influenza in Croatia since April.

¶4. Responding to an article on U.S. surveillance of avian influenza (Washington File, Oct. 11, 2006), Dr. Savic said, so far, H5N1 viruses isolated in wild birds in the Western Hemisphere are different in origin from those viruses isolated in Eurasia. Dr. Savic said it shows the Eurasian H5N1 virus is more likely to reach the Western Hemisphere through poultry trade and smuggling than by bird migration as U.S. scientists feared.

BRADTKE